Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1903 by S.G. Mortimer at the same time the city of Belle Fourche was incorporated, and was first comprised of three hose companies; and,

Whereas, In July 1916, four 3-gallon fire extinguishers were purchased at the recommendation of Chief Noble, and in March 1918, the department conducted research to purchase uniforms; and,

Whereas, In June 1921, a decision was made to consider any member with five years of service to be a lifetime member; and,

Whereas, In April 1928, the first fire truck was acquired for the purpose of hauling hose rather than using hose carts, and by 1932, the department was comprised of 36 members; and,

Whereas, In 1990, the department acquired an old military Jeep cracker box ambulance that was equipped for rescue purposes; and,

Whereas, In 1991, the department expanded from 36 to 39 members, and currently operates with 39 members divided into five truck companies with each company consisting of two trucks, a captain, and lieutenant, and there are also 35 auxiliary members; and,

Whereas, The Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire Department members are recognized for their efforts in extinguishing many fires over the 100 years of existence, and here mentioned are just a few significant ones: Grover Propane in 1981, Pioneer Sporting Goods in 1989, Belle Fourche Building Center in 1990, Robbs Railroad Salvage in 1991, Nisland Elevator in 1998, and Dakota Mill & Grain explosion in 2003; and,

Whereas, The Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate their 100th Anniversary on June 5, 2003:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 5, 2003, as

BELLE FOURCHE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twentieth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State